

IN THE CLAIMS:

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (currently amended) A nitric oxide gas generator, comprising:

a body having a dilution inlet chamber, a chemical mixing chamber, and a dilution outlet chamber, a dilution inlet for diluent gases being provided into the dilution inlet chamber, an inlet being provided to permit entry of the diluent gases from the dilution inlet chamber into the chemical mixing chamber, an outlet being provided to permit the exit of diluted nitric oxide gas from the chemical mixing chamber to the dilution outlet chamber, a dilution outlet being provided for removal of diluted nitric oxide gas from the dilution outlet chamber;

supports [[for]] supporting chemicals of potassium nitrite and nitrate, chromic oxide and ferric oxide to be reacted to produce nitric oxide gas, the [[supporting]] chemicals being powder mixed with non-reactive binders and compressed to form a compressed solid; and

a heat source to heat the chemical mixing chamber in which the chemicals are mixed to initiate a chemical reaction that produces nitric oxide gas.

2. (previously presented) The nitric oxide generator as defined in claim 1, wherein the supports are in the form of probes extending from the heat source and the compressed solid has a lifesaver shape adapted for placement on one of the probes.